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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,524	03/12/2004	Eric Liao	4350SS	9489

7590 05/03/2005
Eric LIAO
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EXAMINER

SANDY, ROBERT JOHN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,524

Applicant(s)

LIAO, ERIC

Examiner

Robert J. Sandy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/12/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Riley (U. S. Patent No. 5,222,988). Riley ('988) discloses a clasp device for attaching to a sheet material, said clasp device comprising: a male member (20) including a piercing member (35) extended therefrom for piercing through the sheet material, and a female member (40) including a bore (through socket 55) formed therein to receive said piercing member of said male member, and to attach and secure said male member and said female member to the sheet material, and to prevent said male member and said female member from being disengaged from the sheet material;

(concerning claim 2) the piercing member of said male member includes a first engaging element (tapered stem 37) provided thereon, said female member includes a second engaging element (tapered bore in socket 55) provided thereon and engageable with said first engaging element of said male member, to solidly secure said male member and said female member together;

(concerning claim 4) the piercing member of said male member includes a drill tip (conical end 38) provided thereon, for easily engaging through the sheet material;

(concerning claim 5) the drill tip of said piercing member of said male member includes at least one cutting edge (pointed end of conical end 38) formed thereon;

(concerning claim 6) the male member includes a chamber (groove 25) formed therein, said female member includes a projection (projection 45) extended therefrom for engaging with

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and for forcing the sheet material into said chamber of said male member, and for solidly securing the sheet material between said female member and said male member; and

(concerning claim 8) the female member includes at least one depression (aperture 62) formed therein for facilitating rotation of said female member relative to said male member.

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cameron (U. S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0063773). Cameron ('773) discloses a clasp device for attaching to a sheet material, said clasp device comprising: a male member (14) including a piercing member (26) extended therefrom for piercing through the sheet material, and a female member (16) including a bore (28) formed therein to receive said piercing member of said male member, and to attach and secure said male member and said female member to the sheet material, and to prevent said male member and said female member from being disengaged from the sheet material;

(concerning claim 2) the piercing member of said male member includes a first engaging element (threads on screw portion 26) provided thereon, said female member includes a second engaging element (mating threads in thread socket portion 28) provided thereon and engageable with said first engaging element of said male member, to solidly secure said male member and said female member together;

(concerning claim 3) the first engaging element includes at least one recess (recess defined by thread root form between adjacent threads peaks) formed in said piercing member of said male member, and said second engaging element includes at least one protrusion (thread peak of a thread form of threaded socket 28) in said female member, and engageable with said at least one recess of said piercing member;

(concerning claim 4) the piercing member of said male member includes a drill tip (tip 27) provided thereon, for easily engaging through the sheet material;

(concerning claim 5) the drill tip of said piercing member of said male member includes at least one cutting edge (pointed end of tip 27) formed thereon;

(concerning claim 8) the female member includes at least one depression (24) formed therein for facilitating rotation of said female member relative to said male member;

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(concerning claim 9) the male member includes at least one depression (24) formed therein for facilitating holding of said male member; and

(concerning claim 10) the male member includes a ring (22 having 42 thereon) attached thereto for coupling purposes

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riley ('988). Riley ('988) discloses the claimed clasp except for wherein the male member includes a ring attached thereto for coupling purposes. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the male member with an attached ring instead of the ring (60,62) of Riley ('98) being attached to the female member 40, since a rearrangement of parts for the ring of the Riley clasp to be attached to the male member instead of the female member is within the general routine skill in the art. Furthermore, having the ring attached to the male member of the Riley clasp would not have modified the operation of the Riley clasp.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J. Sandy whose telephone number is 571-272-7073. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Robert J. Sandy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677



ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER